

## Memorandum

To: Regional Directors, Superintendents and WASO Associate Directors

From: Associate Director, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, and  
Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection

Subject: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Wildlife Preparation,  
Communication, and Response Planning

The NPS *Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Wildlife Preparedness and Communication Plan* and the *Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Wildlife Response Plan* have been completed and are available for your use in preparing for this emerging disease threat which could potentially cause serious negative effects on the Service and the Nation.

Although not currently in the United States, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has the potential to impact NPS by causing disease and mortality in wildlife—specifically migratory birds. Additionally, parks which have domestic poultry (ducks, geese, chickens, turkeys) as part of historic and pastoral scenes may be required to alter flock management practices. Further, humans may become ill after contact with infected birds, placing some employees and possibly visitors at risk. These plans provide highly recommended guidance for action to be taken at the regional and park level to effectively prepare and appropriately respond to HPAI events and issues in wildlife.

These plans do not address HPAI pandemic (worldwide human influenza) issues. A companion *H5N1 Pandemic Influenza Preparation and Response Plan* has been prepared to address pandemic issues. That document is undergoing final review and is expected to be distributed May 12, 2006.

Plans may be viewed or downloaded from the NPS Avian Influenza website (presented by the NPS Zoonotic and Environmentally Transmitted Disease Steering Committee) at [http://www.nps.gov/public\\_health/zed/ai/ai.htm](http://www.nps.gov/public_health/zed/ai/ai.htm). Questions related to the HPAI in Wildlife Plans may be directed to Dr. Margaret Wild, Wildlife Veterinarian, Biological Resources Management Division, (970) 225-3593. For questions related to human health and the *H5N1 Pandemic Influenza Preparation and Response Plan* contact Captain David P. Bleicher, Deputy Director for Environmental Health, NPS Office of Public Health, (202)513-7224.

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